GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4092
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
IMPACT OF ON-GOING RAIL PROJECT OF CHINA ON DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of ongoing rail project of Chinese Government involving a versatile feederline through Tibet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government assessed its impact on our defence preparedness; and

(d) if so, the measures to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): Government is aware of the Chinese plans to construct approximately 1118 kms. long railway line connecting Gormo in Qinghai province in mainland China with Lhasa in Tibet.The project was launched in June, 2001 and it is likely to be completed by 2008. As per our information, so far about 121 kms. of this line have been completed.

Completion of Gormo-Lhasa railway line is likely to enhance the induction and sustenance capability of the Chinese troops in Tibet Autonomous Region as the present rail-head will move forward by about 1118 kms. from mainland China into Tibet.

Any such development in Tibet is constantly monitored and analysed. Government takes all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.